GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3080
ANSWERED ON:19.08.2011
WAIVING OFF LOANS
Sharma Shri Jagdish

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether bank loans of farmers especially farmers of Bihar, taken by them between 1986-90 from different banks have not been written off;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has received complaints of harassment of farmers by the banks for recovery of such loans where interest has now become more than the principal amount; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken by the Government to provide relief to the affected farmers ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a)to (d) : The Agricultural Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme (ADWDRS), 2008 was implemented in the Country in terms of which agricultural loans disbursed by Public Sector Commercial Banks, Cooperative Banks including Urban Cooperative Banks, Local Area Banks and Regional Rural Banks between 01 April 1997 to 31 March 2007 to farmers, overdue as on 31 December 2007 and remaining unpaid upto 28 February 2008 were eligible for Debt Waiver/Debt Relief. In Bihar Rs.1150.45 crores were waived off benefiting 786922 farmers. Debt Relief was provided to 16929 farmers amounting to Rs.26.69 crores. As per the guidelines for the Scheme, there is a decentralized grievance redressal mechanism for dealing with complaints right down to the branch level of the banks.